July 25, 2013

Karl Brooks Regional Administrator, Region 7 Environmental Protection Agency 11201 Renner Blvd. Lenexa, KS 66219

RE: West Lake Landfill Superfund Site

Dear Mr. Brooks:

The West Lake Landfill impacted communities request answers to the below questions. During a June 26, 2013 meeting with Administrator Brooks, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment agreed to work with community members to only send questions regarding the landfill once a month. The Environmental Protection Agency has yet to respond to questions submitted in May and June of 2013. The West Lake Landfill impacted communities continue to be concerned about the safety of citizens living in proximity to the landfill and depend on the EPA to address our concerns as the lead regulatory agency. The undersigned community members expect the EPA to provide a written response within 4 weeks of receiving this letter.

- 1. How close can the subsurface smoldering event approach West Lake Landfill before the EPA interjects and emergency actions are taken? Meaning, does the EPA have a "red line" for its involvement?
- 2. Has the EPA received any information regarding groundwater flow at the West Lake Landfill from the USGS? Is there a timeframe for USGS involvement?
- 4. Where exactly will the off-site groundwater samples be collected surrounding the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site? Will a sampling plan be made available for comment before sampling is conducted?
- 5. Will EPA provide groundwater sampling (both on-site and off-site) locations, results, and plans with the community?
- 6. How does the EPA explain levels of Radium-226 and Radium-228 outside of Operable Unit 1? For example: The Responsiveness Summary from 2008 (page 3) states "only four wells exhibited a total radium concentration above the MCL of 5 picocuries per liter (pCi/I)" with the maximum reading being 6.33PiC/l. A map in the Groundwater Monitoring report dated December 14th displays 20 wells that show radium levels above 5pCi/I with PZ-l0I-SS reading 32.01pCi/I, which is outside of Area-I and Area-2 of Operable Unit 1.
 - a) With the increase in the concentration of Radium from the wells, how can the EPA continue to state that the levels of Radium being read are naturally occurring?

- b) Can the EPA explain the significant increase in wells that showed Radium above 5 PiC/1?
- 7. Does the EPA contend that 8,700 tons of leached barium sulfate from Latty Avenue was mixed with 38,000 tons to 39,000 tons of "clean material" as stated in the Responsiveness Summary (page 13)?
- 8. What studies/investigation did the National Remedy and Review Board recommend EPA Region 7 conduct to better understand the West Lake Landfill?
- 9. Why was the fence along OU-1 Area 1 moved closer to the St. Charles Rock Road? What day(s) was the new fence constructed? By whose order?
- 10. Will the EPA provide digital records on its website of all documents in the "administrative record" and "public record" concerning West Lake Landfill?
- 11. How many Superfund Sites in Region 7 involve radiological contamination? Has EPA Region 7 executed a ROD at a radioactive Superfund Site? If so, which ones and when?
- 12. How can the EPA conclude that the radioactive materials are contained based on the ASPECT plane, which only measured gamma radiation up to one foot, while the radioactive wastes are buried up to 15 feet deep and there is no liner to prevent groundwater contamination?
- 13. Has the EPA conducted community interviews of "impacted communities" in the last ten years? If yes, does the EPA have evidence to support that community interviews were conducted? If yes, how have community interviews guided the EPA's response to community concerns? If no, does the EPA plan on conducting community interviews prior to the next Record of Decision?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

West Lake Landfill Impacted Communities & MCE

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